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BROWNHILLS  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Annual Report

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
AND  
Chief Sanitary Inspector,  
ON THE WORK OF THE  
Public Health Services.

1954



Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor Dr. F. R. Roberts.

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor G. A. Jones, J.P.

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## STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

Dr. T. S. PATERSON, M.B. (Died 16th March, 1955).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN WILSON, D.P.A. (Lond.), M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

A.M.I.S.E.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other ~~Foods~~

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as applied to  
Building and Public ~~Works~~

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

K. BLOWER, M.S.I.A.

G. CROWE, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Clerks:

1. M. COLLINGWOOD (Chief Clerk).

2. E. MARKLEW.

Handyman:

S. Wright.



# BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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1954

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Health Department,  
Coombe House,  
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me pleasure to present to you my report for 1954, which has been compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 28/54.

### AREA AND RATEABLE VALUE.

The area of the district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £75,149. The sum represented by a penny rate is £285.

### POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the estimated population is 21,390 (mid-year). The provisional population according to the 1951 census is 21,482, which shows an increase of 3,114 over the 1931 census. The 1951 census shows that there were 10,759 males and 10,723 females. The density of population is 3.4 per acre.

### HOUSING.

The following is a summary of houses built during 1954:

By Private Enterprise	...	...	...	...	33
Permanent houses by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	130

The clearance and demolition of sub-standard properties must continue. Many people have lived under most unsatisfactory conditions for too many years.

**SEWERAGE.**

The Sandhills area of some 55 houses is in course of being sewerred. This will remove a potential danger to health. Clayhanger area has not so far been adequately dealt with. The surcharged and frequently overflowing sewers constitute a danger to health which must receive immediate attention.

**SOCIAL CONDITIONS.**

The principal industry has for many years been mining. The erection of new factories is a welcome change as there are many advantages in spreading labour over more industries. Female labour can also be employed locally.

**BIRTHS, 1954.**

**Live Births—**

				Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	185	...	169	...	354
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	...	3	...	8
Total								362

**Still Births—**

				Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
Total								6

The number of live births gives a birth rate of 16.9 per thousand of the population. The area comparability factor for births is 0.95 and this gives a corrected birth rate of 16.055.

Still births numbered 6. This gives a still birth rate of 0.28 per thousand of the population, or a still birth rate of 16.3 per thousand total births (live and still).

## DEATHS, 1954.

Deaths numbered 208—109 male and 99 females.

This gives a crude death rate of 9.7 per thousand of the population, and a standard death rate of 12.0 per thousand (the area comparability factor for deaths is 1.24).

The Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand live births is 30.4

Deaths of legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births is 31.1.

There are no illegitimate deaths recorded.

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough.

Deaths resulting from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years)—2.

The number and causes of deaths for 1954 are shown in the following table:—

## DEATHS, 1954.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	4	—	4
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections .. .. .	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm lung, bronchus .. .. .	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, breast .. .. .	—	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	2	13	15
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	—	—	—
Diabetes .. .. .	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	9	18	27
Coronary disease angina .. .. .	13	4	17
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	1	4	5
Other heart disease .. .. .	37	24	61
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	5	—	5
Influenza .. .. .	1	1	2
Pneumonia .. .. .	4	4	8
Bronchitis .. .. .	5	3	8
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	9	1	10
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	—	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	2	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .. .. .	—	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	6	12	18
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	1	1
All other accidents .. .. .	1	2	3
Suicide .. .. .	3	—	3
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—	—
All causes .. .. .	109	99	208

The death rate (per thousand of the population) for Tuberculosis is 0.28, for Influenza 0.09 and for Pneumonia 0.37.

### DEATHS — AGE DISTRIBUTION

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Over 70	Total
11	—	1	—	1	2	5	17	28	45	98	208

Under one year there were 11 deaths.  
67% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years  
33% were under 60 years.

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Disease	Under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Cardiac failure due to broncho Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro enteritis	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature birth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis Prematurity	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Totals	6	2	1	1	1			Total	11

## INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

(Rates per 1,000 Live Births)

Year.	Number.	Rate.
1945 ...	31	83.5
1946 ...	19	41.9
1947 ...	16	30.8
1948 ...	16	40.7
1949 ...	9	21.9
1950 ...	17	43.7
1951 ...	9	27.8
1952 ...	10	29.7
1953 ...	12	33.1
1954 ...	11	30.4

The death rate from enteritis and diarrhoea in children under two years of age was 5.5 per 1,000 live births. There were no deaths from this cause in 1953 as against 2 in 1954.

The Maternal Mortaliay rate was nil.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease		Under 1 Year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70 and over	Total
Measles	..	..	1	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	9
Whooping Cough	..	..	3	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Scarlet Fever	..	..	—	8	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	19
Pneumonia	..	..	1	—	1	—	1	3	1	4	2	1	14
Erysipelas	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	..	..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio Encephalitis	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	..	..	3	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Food Poisoning	..	..	4	5	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	15

Of the two cases of Poliomyelitis notified, one was paralytic and one non-paralytic.

Measles had its bi-annual low incidence rate.

There were no cases of diptheria but it is essential that a higher level of immunisation be reached if control is to be maintained. The rate of immunisation amongst babies is especially low. Publicity must continue to be given to the importance of accepting this service.

A whooping cough vaccine is now in use within the County area and it is hoped that it proves successful in reducing the number of cases of this disease of childhood.

The Case Rates per thousand of the population in respect of certain infectious diseases are as follows:—

Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	0.05
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	0.89
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0.65
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.09
Measles	...	...	...	...	0.42
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.65
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis)	...	...	...	...	0.09
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	0.70

#### FOOD POISONING.

There were 15 cases of food poisoning which can be divided up as follows:

- (a) Seven cases in the Norton Canes Ward amongst the children of three families. There was contact between the cases but in spite of extensive enquiries and the examination of a wide range of possibilities no common source was found. All responded to medical treatment at home. The causative organism was the salmonella typhi-murium.
- (b) A further 7 cases occurred amongst four separate families with no apparent connection with each other. In one case the father was a dairy farm worker and a notice was served under Regulation 20 prohibiting him from handling milk, milk churns, etc. The causative organism was the salmonella typhi-murium.
- (c) The remaining case was associated with an outbreak in the area of an adjoining authority. The causative organism was Salmonella typhi-murium.

#### DYSENTERY.

The 11 cases of sonne dysentery occurred amongst five families. Various schools were involved and the houses were

some distance apart. It is highly probable that other milder cases occurred which never came to our notice and these might have provided the connecting link.

The recurrence of food poisoning and dysentery cases stresses the need for scrupulous cleanliness with particular attention to personal hygiene.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS IN 1954.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 „	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 „	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 „	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
30 to 40 „	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
40 to 50 „	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
50 to 60 „	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
60 to 70 „	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
70 and over	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total ..	14	10	1	1	4	—	—	2

The following table shows the number of cases on the Register at the end of 1952, 1953 and 1954 respectively:—

Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
Male		Female		Male	Female	Total	
1952	... 71	... 74		18	... 27	... 190	
1953	... 81	... 87		14	... 23	... 205	
1954	... 93	... 96		15	... 24	... 228	

The increase in the total number of cases is due to improvements in the treatment which are giving a greater longevity of life. Incidentally this, in its turn, produces the problem of an increased number of sources of infection.

Arrangements were made for the Mass Radiography Unit to visit the district during the year. A few were recalled for further examination but the number of new cases found was small.

The Council have continued to support and implement the policy of re-housing of Tuberculosis patients who are living under unsatisfactory conditions. The majority of cases still requiring to be re-housed are in the Central Ward.

#### SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

An elderly couple were found to be living under insanitary conditions and not receiving proper care and attention. They were removed by Order of the Cannock Magistrates Court to Ivy House, Cannock.

An elderly lady was similarly removed to Fernleigh Hostel, Stafford, as being in need of care and attention, on Order of Brownhills Magistrates Court.

#### GENERAL

Bacteriological and Clinical examinations are generally carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Stafford. Results of the examination of 129 specimens of sputum, 10 throat swabs, 1 specimen of vomit and 276 specimens of faeces were reported to the Department. Almost all the faecal specimens were taken by the Staff of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Hospitals serve the district as regards Surgical, Medical and Specialised Departments. For the most part maternity cases are served by the hospitals in Lichfield.

Hammerwich Cottage Hospital has continued to provide a most useful service. Surgical, Medical and Gynaecological cases are dealt with and out-patients' clinics are held. In certain cases transfers to Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent Hospitals are arranged when necessary.

Cases of infectious diseases are sent to Moxley and Tamworth Isolation Hospitals.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante Natal Clinics are under the control of the County Council, although some doctors have ante natal clinics at their own surgeries at specified times.

The ambulance service is under the control of the County Council and is satisfactory.

I wish to record my appreciation of the help and loyal co-operation of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff and of the help of the Chief Clerk in preparing the statistics and the report for the printers.

The support of the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee has been invaluable in the execution of my duties as Medical Officer of Health.

Yours faithfully,

T. S. PATERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

# BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,  
Coombe House,  
Brownhills.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1954.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Department during the year 1954.

### PART I — INTRODUCTION.

Two Acts which were promulgated during the year have influenced the work of the Department, viz: (1) The Slaughterhouse Act, 1954, which permitted local authorities to re-licence private slaughterhouses, and (2) The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which made major alterations to the existing Housing legislation.

The immediate effect will be noticed under the appropriate paragraphs of this report. Suffice it to say here that a re-apportionment of time has been necessary to accommodate the increased work involved. A certain amount of overtime has been necessary on meat inspection and Shops Act (closing hours) inspections.

### PART II — STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, two Additional Sanitary Inspectors, Chief Clerk and a General Clerk. The clerical work of the Medical Officer of Health is accommodated within the Department.

Recommendations made by the Government Working Party on the recruitment, training and qualification of Sanitary Inspectors have not yet been implemented. This indecision has repercussions throughout the whole profession which are not to the advantage of the public health Service.

### PART III — WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply to this area is provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. There has been no case of shortage and the quality and quantity have continued to be satisfactory.

Sampling of the public supply for bacteriological examination has been carried out regularly. In all, some 131 samples of water were submitted for examination and the majority of these were from the areas of the District affected by mining subsidence. 17 samples gave results which were suspicious and requiring further investigation. Follow-up samples proved satisfactory but it is significant that counts were obtained from one area on four separate occasions.

There are four private wells situate at Keeper's Cottage, The Wilkin, 47, Canal Side, and 57, Sandhills.

#### Water Supply Summary:—

Total houses in district	...	...	6,145
Houses with wells	...	...	4
Houses with stand pipes	...	...	19
Houses with communal taps	...	...	77
Houses with direct piped supply	...	...	6,045

The following is a statement on the water supply to the Urban District, kindly submitted by R. A. Robertson, Esq., Engineer-in-Chief to the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company:—

1. The supply to the area has been satisfactory in respect of quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded from pumping stations situated outside the boundary of the Authority.

All the waters as pumped are examined at regular intervals, both bacteriologically and chemically. Bacteriological samples are also examined of the raw waters where treatment is practised.

During 1954, 53 samples were examined from Sandhills P.S. one of which contained coliform bacteria.

Routine samples were examined from the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, from No. 1, High Street, Clayhanger, and from the Waterman's house at Norton Canes.

16 samples from Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, 16 from Clayhanger and 14 from Norton Canes were all free from coliform bacteria.

The supply to the Norton Canes district was examined regularly and at frequent intervals throughout this year, as the mains are affected by mining. A total of 1,508 samples was examined, 97.3% being free from coliform bacteria and 99.3% free from Bact. Coli.

The average chemical results for 1954 of the tap samples from Waterman, Norton Canes and Municipal Buildings. Brownhills, were:—

	Norton Canes.			Brownhills		
pH	..	..	7.6	..	..	7.4
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	..	..	85	..	parts per million	121
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	14.1	..	" "	26.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	..	Trace	..	" "	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	..	.009	..	" "	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	..	3.2	..	" "	7.4
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	..	..	.17	..	" "	.12
Temporary Hardness	..	..	79	..	" "	116
Permanent Hardness	..	..	50	..	" "	117
Total Hardness	..	..	129	..	" "	233
Iron (Fe)	..	..	.03	..	" "	.02
Manganese (Mn)	..	..	Nil	..	" "	Nil
Zinc (Zn)	..	..	Nil	..	" "	Nil
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	..	..	Nil	..	" "	Nil
Free Cl	..	..	.08	..	" "	Nil

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being obtained from any of the samples examined.
4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out where possible at the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. Special apparatus and staff are available in the event of contamination. Chlorination on site is practised, following burst mains, etc., laying of new mains, and emptying of reservoirs. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. Number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains—

(a) direct to the houses ...	...	6,045
(b) by means of standpipes ...	...	96
		<hr/> 6,141 <hr/>

The population is estimated by the Company at 3.75 persons per house.

You will note that the number of houses supplied by means of standpipes has been increased. This is due to the fact that a re-survey has been made and it appears that some of the houses must have been overlooked in earlier surveys.

#### **PART IV — SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.**

Table 1 shows that where the sewer is available 38 houses are served by pails or privies, but that it is proposed to deal with 31 of these houses by proceedings under Sections 11 or 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. The number of pails or privies has been reduced by 39 during the year, making a total reduction of 443 over the last ten years.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Number of houses ... ..	6,145
Houses on water carriage system ...	5,985
Houses with privies ... ..	56
Houses with pails ... ..	104

There will always be a number of houses at farms and smallholdings where the provision of a public sewer is not feasible. It is to be hoped that the owners of such premises will decide to provide modern sanitary accommodation and suitable drainage.

A small number of tippler closets exist and these are being converted to washdown closets wherever possible.

TABLE I—SEWER NOT AVAILABLE

District	Pails.			Privies		
	To be converted.	For H.A. Action.	Total	To be converted.	For H.A. Action.	Total
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	3	13	16	4	7	11
Brownhills West .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walsall Wood .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shelfield and High Heath ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brownhills .. ..	—	8	8	—	3	3
Totals	3	21	24	4	10	14

TABLE II—SEWER NOT AVAILABLE

District	Pails	Privies
Norton Canes (including Little Wyrley)	40	27
Brownhills West .. ..	40	4
Walsall Wood .. ..	12	7
Shelfield and High Heath ..	4	1
Brownhills .. ..	14	3
Totals	80	42

## PART V—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

- (1) Brownhills, Brownhills West, Walsall Wood and Clayhanger are sewered to the Green Lane Works, Walsall Wood. Improvements continue to be made to these works and to the trunk sewers. Some of the work is necessitated

by an increase in the amount of sewage, but the major portion of the alterations are required because of damage by mining subsidence.

From a public health point of view, the danger areas are at Clayhanger and, to a lesser degree, Coppice Road and Camden Street. None of these can be remedied in a hurry as major engineering works are involved, but the Engineer and Surveyor is tackling these problems and all it remains for me to do is to continue to stress the urgency of this work.

39 samples of the sewage effluent and of the Fordbrook (which receives the effluent) have been submitted for analysis. The normal flow of the brook course gives such a small dilution of the effluent that it is imperative that the works operate efficiently and give an effluent of a high standard.

- (2) The village of Norton Canes has its own sewerage system and disposal works of recent construction. Of the 160 houses not on the water carriage system, 108 are in the Norton Canes Ward.
- (3) Cannock Road, Heath Hayes, a small section of Watling Street and the whole of Shelfield are sewered to systems operated by adjoining authorities.
- (4) The 59 houses in the Sandhills area should have a public sewer within the next financial year. This will cut out the many badly constructed cesspools which only operate as catchpits for solids. Any threat to the water pumping station will then be removed.

## **PART VI — REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.**

The collection and disposal of refuse is controlled by the Engineer and Surveyor. A few complaints have been received in this Department but they have always been speedily attended to when referred to the office concerned.

Disposal is by tipping and although there has been a considerable improvement in the condition of the tips, from a health point of view nothing less than controlled tipping is satisfactory. I hope the Council will see their way clear to budget for such a scheme.

A total of 763 houses have been supplied with new dustbins during the financial year.

To new Council houses ... ..	143
Replacements to Council houses	224
Private Houses at 5/- per annum	170
Private houses for cash payment	112
To Schools, etc. ... ..	114

## PART VII.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR.

Total visits .. .. .	7,447
Complaints received .. .. .	169
Houses Inspected—Public Health Act, Repairs .. .. .	3,134
—Verminous or Dirty .. .. .	74
—Overcrowding .. .. .	175
—Housing Act .. .. .	221
—Subsidence Damage .. .. .	49
—Improvements Grants .. .. .	18
Caravans .. .. .	234
Dustbins .. .. .	293
Refuse Tips .. .. .	21
Water Closets .. .. .	109
Pails .. .. .	118
Tipplers .. .. .	38
Privies .. .. .	13
Conversions .. .. .	26
Cesspools .. .. .	114
Drains—new and/or tested .. .. .	73
—existing and/or defective .. .. .	123
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	144
Fish Fryers .. .. .	137
Food Preparation Premises .. .. .	148
Food Inspections .. .. .	432
Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	43
Bakehouses .. .. .	47
Shops Act .. .. .	103
Food Shops .. .. .	111
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	34
Rodent Control .. .. .	119
Atmospheric Pollution .. .. .	40
Petroleum Storage .. .. .	32
Water Supply .. .. .	35
Factories—mechanical .. .. .	165
—non-mechanical .. .. .	10
Keeping of Animals .. .. .	5
Infectious Disease Enquiries .. .. .	91
Disinfection and Disinfestation .. .. .	32
Miscellaneous .. .. .	377
Samples—Water, bacteriological .. .. .	131
—Water, Chemical .. .. .	39
—Ice Cream .. .. .	127
—Faeces .. .. .	212

### NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices brought forward from 1953 .. .. .	66
Informal Notices served .. .. .	98
Informal Notices complied with .. .. .	99
Informal Notices carried forward to 1955 .. .. .	65

### STATUTORY NOTICES.

TABLE III.

Section	Brought forward from 1953	Served	Complied with	Carried forward to 1955
Section 39, Public Health Act/1936 ..	1	2	2	1
Section 44, Public Health Act/1936 ..	1	—	1	—
Section 45, Public Health Act/1936 ..	2	1	3	—
Section 47, Public Health Act/1936 ..	9	21	21	9
Sections 92, 93, Public Health Act/1936 ..	27	27	33	21
Totals ..	40	51	60	31

## ENFORCEMENT.

In 22 instances the Council authorised the institution of Court proceedings.

This action was found necessary in respect of 13 Notices served under Sections 92 and 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 5 under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and one each under Sections 39, 44 and 45. In addition there was one case under Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936, (articles given to a child under 14 years in exchange for rags), where the person concerned could not be found.

Court Orders were obtained in 2 cases (one with costs and one without), and in the remainder the work was completed without actual proceedings. Some delay in complying with notices is due to claims being submitted to the National Coal Board in respect of subsidence damage.

## PART VIII — HOUSING.

The provisional survey of unfit houses made in 1952-3 has proved useful in arriving at the figures to be included in the return called for by Circular 55/54. A total of 676 houses have been listed for demolition procedure, but each house will be dealt with on its merits when fully inspected at the time action is commenced.

The Council have continued with their policy of dealing with a few of the unfit houses, but the time has arrived when a more widespread attack on this class of property must be made.

### PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

Houses reported under Section II, Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	7
Houses reported under Section II, Housing Act, 1936, as amended by Section 10. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 .. .. .	6
Closing Orders made .. .. .	3
Demolition Orders made .. .. .	8
Undertakings accepted by the Council .. .. .	2

---

Houses represented in Clearance Areas in accordance with Section 25, Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	32
Number of Clearance Areas represented .. .. .	6
Number of Clearance Areas dealt with by Compulsory Purchase Order .. .. .	6
Number of Clearance Areas dealt with by Clearance Order .. .. .	Nil

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Houses demolished by owners .. .. .	7
Number of families re-housed .. .. .	17
Number of persons re-housed .. .. .	87

## Clearance Areas.

- (a) The Clearance Order in respect of the Brownhills (Shelfield) Clearance Area No. 2, was confirmed without modification on the 13th April, 1954, and the 7 families re-housed.
- (b) The Council in Committee on 13th January, 1954, declared the following to be Clearance Areas:—
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 15, 17 High Street,<br>Norton Canes.                 | Brownhills (Norton Canes)<br>Clearance Area No. 3. |
| 23, 25, High Street,<br>Norton Canes.                | Clearance Area No. 4.                              |
| 28, 30, 32, 40, 42, High<br>Street, Norton Canes.    | Clearance Area No. 5.                              |
| 51, 53, 52·54, 60, 62, High<br>Street, Norton Canes. | Clearance Area No. 6.                              |

Further consideration was given to these areas by the Council in Committee on the 10th February, 1954, and the Council made Brownhills No. 4 Compulsory Purchase Order to include the above Clearance Areas, and five portions of land adjoining the areas and coloured grey on the Compulsory Purchase Order map.

A Public Inquiry was held at which there were objections in respect of four of the houses. (The order was confirmed without modification in February, 1955).

- (c) The Health Committee on the 6th October, 1954, declared the following to be Clearance Areas:—
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 82, 84, 86, 88, 92, 94, 96,<br>Commonside, Brownhills.                 | Brownhills (Commonside)<br>Clearance Area No. 7.  |
| 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33,<br>35, 37, 39, Narrow<br>Lane, Brownhills. | Brownhills (Narrow Lane)<br>Clearance Area No. 8. |

On the 13th October, 1954, the Council made Brownhills No. 7 Compulsory Purchase Order to include Clearance Areas Nos. 7 and 8.

Proceedings in respect of these Clearance Areas will be completed in 1955.

## Individual Unfit Houses.

It will be noted that 13 houses have been reported upon under the terms of Section II of the Housing Act, 1936, or as amended by Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. The latter Act has proved most useful where a house has been found to warrant immediate

action although its dependent neighbours could serve as housing units for a short while longer. This has been particularly the case where mining subsidence damage has occurred.

### Improvement Grants.

7 applications for improvement grants have been received and 6 of these were approved and 1 refused. Of the six improvements carried out five were for owner-occupiers and only one for a tenant.

The total cost of the works was £1,800 giving an average of £300 per house and the amount of grant was £900.

### Certificates of Disrepair.

8 certificates of disrepair were issued at the end of the year under the terms of the 1954 Acts.

## COUNCIL HOUSES.

Mr. C. R. Closs, F.I.Hsg., Housing Manager, has supplied the following information in respect of Council houses as at the 31st December, 1954:—

### Prior to the late War:—

Act under which constructed.	Bedrooms			Bungalows.		Total
	Two	Three	Four	Prefab.	Old Persons.	
1919 ...	—	250	—	—	—	250
1923 ...	—	154	—	—	—	154
1924 ...	92	158	—	—	—	250
1925 ...	102	344	30	—	6	482
1930 ...	44	56	30	—	—	130
Totals ...	238	962	60	—	6	1,266

### Post War:—

1946 ...	—	1	—	50	—	51
1947 ...	4	36	—	—	—	40
1948 ...	4	53	—	80	—	137
1949 ...	2	39	—	13	8	62
1950 ...	—	57	1	—	—	58
1951 ...	8	48	—	—	—	56
1952 ...	6	58	—	—	—	64
1953 ...	10	86	1	—	—	97
1954 ...	18	111	1	—	—	130
Totals ...	52	489	3	143	8	695

## PART IX — FOOD HYGIENE.

People who prepare food or handle it in any way have a tremendous responsibility to the community. This applies to the housewife and to the foodworker. The cases of food

poisoning referred to in the Medical Officer's section of this report occurred because some person failed to observe the rules of hygiene. We used to say a good farmer could produce clean milk under poor conditions. A similar adage might be applied to food handlers. Every effort is made to improve and maintain premises at a standard which encourages and facilitates cleanliness, but the finest kitchen needs the finest cook. Although no actual classes have been held several talks to various organisations have been given to encourage the hygienic handling of food. These, coupled with hints given at the time of routine visits, have been our tools for the job.

It is felt that a variation in approach or a more attractive presentation is now required to rejuvenate interest in this important work. It may be that some form of health exhibition will stimulate interest, but it is essential that we advance and not drop back into the rut of apathy.

### Ice Cream.

One business is registered for the manufacture of a hot-mix ice cream. The premises have been maintained in a satisfactory condition and the samples we have submitted for examination have been reported by the Public Health Laboratory as being in Grade 1.

88 shops are registered for the sale of ice cream and table IV shows the results of sampling the various ice creams on sale. Samples found to be in Grades 3 and 4 were followed up and with the co-operation of the traders satisfactory standards attained. All these ice creams are produced outside the district.

**TABLE IV — RESULTS OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES.**

Grade	Time taken to reduce methylene blue (Hours)	Results
1	4½ or more	86 (71.1%)
2	2½ - 4	14 (11.5%)
3	½ - 2	6 (5%)
4	0	15 (12.4%)

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of ice cream, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgment

should be based on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent. into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Six Iced Lollies were also submitted to the Laboratory for examination.

### Manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.

Besides the 20 fish fryers who are registered, there are 12 premises attached to butchers' shops which are registered for the manufacture of meat products. These latter are in a relatively small way but are none the less important because there is a temptation to be careless when such a comparatively small financial return is involved.

Butchers generally do take care and a safe attractive product is marketed.

### Meat Inspection.

In July, 1954, meat was released from control. Table V shows that all animals slaughtered have been inspected. This has meant that some inspections had to be carried out in the evenings and at week-ends.

**TABLE V.**

Animal	Killed	Inspected	No. of carcasses of which some organ or part was condemned.	
			T. B.	Other than T.B.
Cows	60	60	16	11
Calves	26	26	—	—
Other Cattle	265	265	39	17
Pigs	497	497	17	4
Sheep	1,351	1,351	—	6
Total ..	2,199	2,199	72	38

27% of cows and 15% of other cattle were infected with Tuberculosis.

Weight of Meat condemned:—

Carcase Meat (2 sheep)

Offal (Tuberculosis) ...	15 cwts.	—	7 lbs.
Offal (other than T.B.)	3 cwts.	2 qtrs.	8 lbs.

**Other Food Inspected.**

The following items of food have been surrendered:—

78 tins of Meat .. .. .	162 lbs.
5 tins of Fish .. .. .	3 lbs.
5 tins of Ham .. .. .	45 lbs.
24 tins of Fruit .. .. .	26 lbs.
56 Tins of Vegetables .. .. .	91 lbs.
14 tins of Soup .. .. .	14 lbs.
13 boxes of Prunes .. .. .	82 lbs.
49 tins of Milk .. .. .	62 lbs.
6 tins of Syrup .. .. .	12 lbs.
Cheese .. .. .	34 lbs.
Bream Fillets .. .. .	42 lbs.

Total .. 5 cwt. 13 lbs.

**Food and Drugs, Act, 1938.**

The Chief Inspector for Weights and Measures for the Staffordshire County Council has supplied the following details of samples taken by his Department:—

**Samples taken during the year 1954:—**

**Milk.**

Milk, Pasteurised .. .. .	21
Milk, Tuberculin Tested .. .. .	3
Milk, Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested .. .. .	7
Milk, Pasteurised Channel Islands .. .. .	1
Milk, Sterilised .. .. .	13
Total ..	45

Number of Samples taken .. .. .	45
Number of Samples Genuine .. .. .	45

**General Foods.**

Number of Samples taken .. .. .	66
Number of Samples Genuine .. .. .	66

**Classification:—**

Tea	Bircarbonate of Soda
Sugar	Seeded Raisins
Demerara Sugar	Self-Raising Flour
Sardines in Tomato	Quencha Fruit Drink
Dressed Crab	Lard
Raspberries in Syrup	Frosted Flakes
Potted Salmon	Glauber's Salt, B.P.
Pears in Syrup	Golden Raising Powder
Chicken and Ham Paste	Lemon Crystals
Tomatoes	Saccharin Tablets.
Yankee Relish	Tomato Sauce
Sago	Tinned Crayfish
Glace Cherries	Pork Sausage
Raspberry Jam	Pilchards in Tomato
Epsom Salts	Mulligatawny Soup
Garden Peas	Mixed Pickles
Pineapple in Syrup	Custard Powder
Shrimps in Aspic	Cherries
Butter, Margarine Mixture	Gravy Browning
Butter	Salmon Paste
Margarine	Sild in Olive Oil.
Cooking Fat	Meat Paste (Beef)
Pepper Flavour Condiment	Beef Sausage
Corned Beef	Whisky
White Pepper	Ice Cream

### **Detail of Sample, Genuine but Naturally Poor.**

Milk, Tuberculin Tested, 5.0% Deficient in Fat.  
"Appeals to Cows" Samples also Deficient in Fat.

### **Milk Supplies.**

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1954, came into force on the 1st October, 1954. By the terms of this Order milk must be sold under a special designation and this results in the housewife being supplied with a bottled milk.

The County Council sample milk for bacteriological examination and according to the copies of reports supplied to this office the results of the appropriate tests have been as follows:—

Undesignated Milk	— 11 satisfactory.	1 failed.
Pasteurised	— 32 satisfactory.	1 failed.
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)		
	— 18 satisfactory.	1 failed.
Sterilized	— 25 satisfactory.	
Tuberculin Tested (Farm bottled)		
	— 6 satisfactory.	1 failed.

Of 20 samples submitted for biological examination, one was reported to be positive and show evidence of a tuberculous infection. Suitable action was taken and eventually the milk supply concerned was reported to be clear.

## **PART X — ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.**

The evils of atmospheric pollution have been talked about for many years by workers in the field of public health. At last the general public is beginning to take notice and, in its turn, the Government has expressed a quickening of interest as evidenced by its calling for the Beaver Report.

New legislation appears to be in the offing and if our hopes prove justified a general cleaning up of the atmosphere will begin. It has been a long road and there is still a very long way to go but perhaps the next generation will see some daylight.

The records at the three measurement stations are set out in Tables VI and VII and illustrated by graphs so as to show the average monthly reading and to show the variation between districts. Sheffield continues to have the heaviest soot deposit per square mile, probably due to its proximity to the Black Country. The average rainfall for the district as a whole was 29.78 inches and the wettest month was 4.93 inches in November at Sheffield.

Unfortunately, someone found the Shelffield gauge to be a good target for stone throwing and a replacement was not easily obtained. The value of the Shelffield records are consequently diminished to that extent.

**TABLE VI.**  
**DEPOSIT GAUGES — RECORDS OF DEPOSITS.**

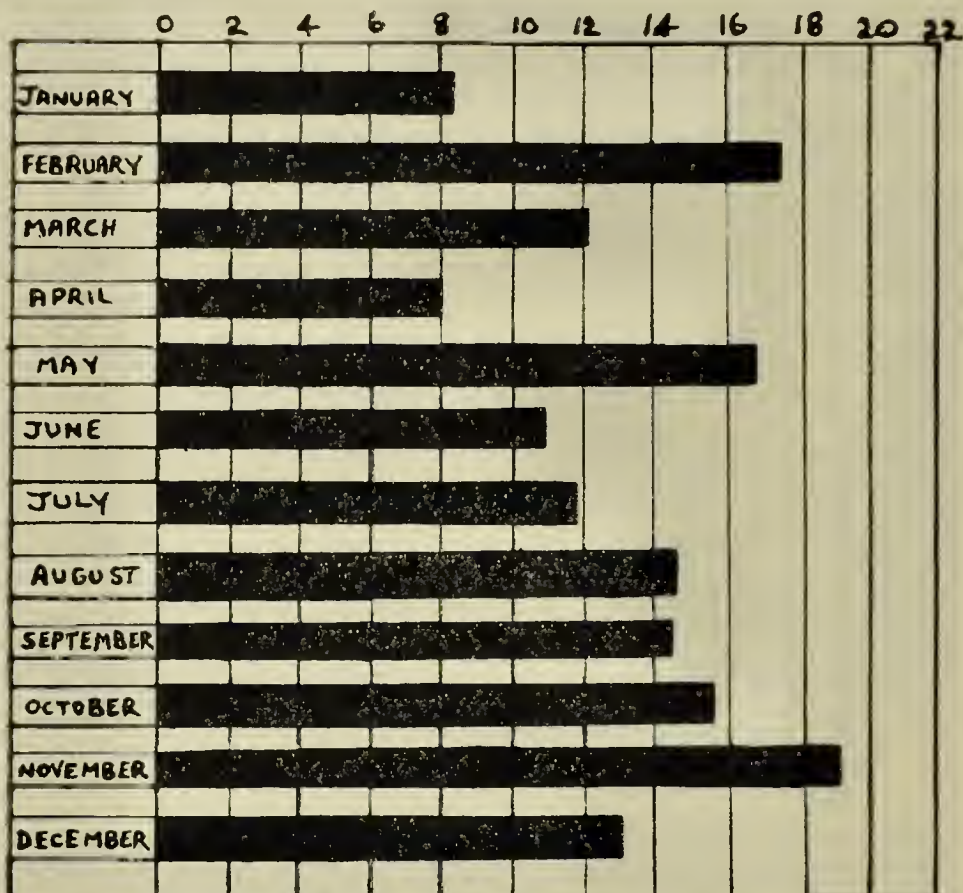
Month	Deposits in tons per square mile per month.		
	Norton Canes.	Brownhills.	Shelffield.
January	6.27	9.40	9.34
February	14.90	16.78	20.16
March	7.70	11.20	17.25
April	7.86	8.23	— x
May	13.98	19.07	— x
June	9.93	11.84	— x
July	11.08	12.84	— x
August	10.62	12.54	20.26
September	10.32	15.81	17.02
October	9.43	16.11	21.20
November	— +	17.44	20.47
December	13.12	12.67	13.39
Totals	115.21	163.93	139.09
	(11 mths)		(8 mths.)
Monthly Average	10.47	13.66	17.39

x—Deposit Gauge Broken.

+—No Reading Available.

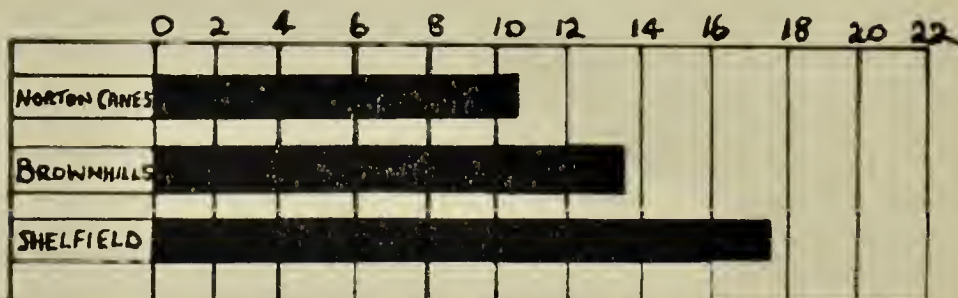
## DEPOSIT GAUGES 1954 SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)

Seasonal Average for whole of District Tons/sq. Mile per month



## DEPOSIT GAUGES 1954 DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)

Tons per square Mile per Month



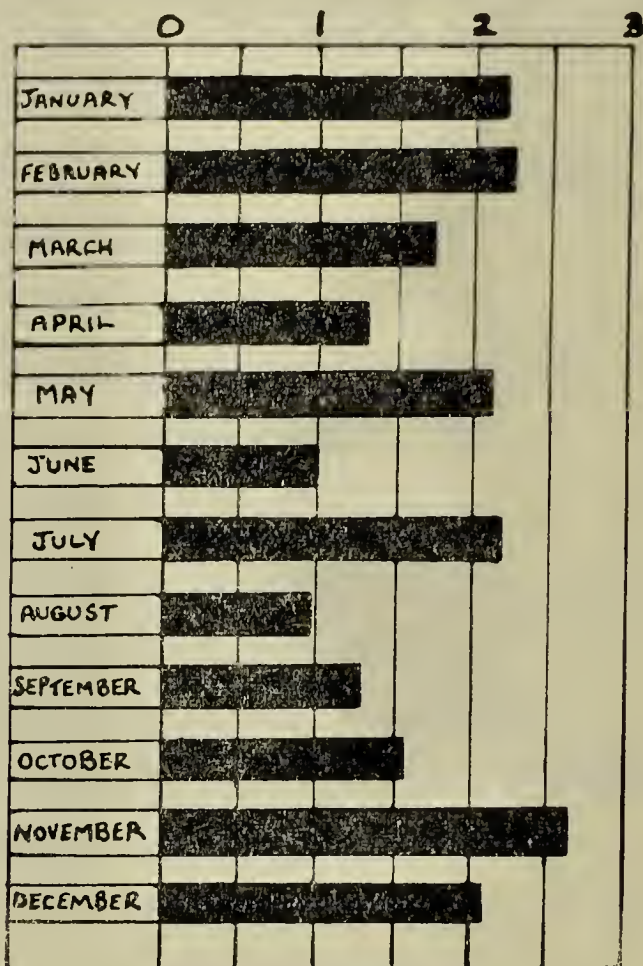
**TABLE VII.****LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES — RECORD OF SULPHUR POLLUTION.**

Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected—in milligrams per 100 square centimetres per day.

Month.	Norton Canes.	Brownhills.	Shelfield.
January	1.40	2.85	2.39
February	1.80	2.75	2.32
March	1.35	1.98	1.94
April	0.88	1.73	1.41
May	1.66	2.22	2.67
June	0.68	1.22	1.11
July	0.52	2.84	3.30
August	0.52	1.52	0.91
September	0.65	1.81	1.38
October	0.95	2.55	1.89
November	1.50	3.93	2.45
December	1.25	2.63	2.33
Totals	13.16	28.03	24.10
Monthly Average	1.10	2.34	2.01

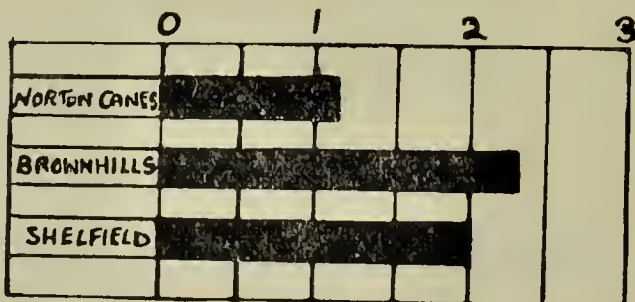
# **LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1954 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)** **SEASONAL INCIDENCE (Averages)**

M/Grams/SO3 100 sq. cms./Day



# **LEAD PEROXIDE GAUGES 1954 (SULPHUR DIOXIDE)** **DISTRICT INCIDENCE (Averages)**

M/Grams./SO3 100 sq. cms./Day



**Shops Act, 1950.**

The Council has been delegated as Shops Act Authority under an agreement with the County Council. The Chief Sanitary Inspector is Chief Shops Inspector and the First Additional Sanitary Inspector is Assistant Shops Act Inspector. As a first step an effort is being made to visit each shop to explain the general provisions of the law and to hand the shop-keeper a printed summary of the Shops Act, 1950.

A few verbal warnings have been given where sales have taken place outside the limits imposed and there has been some improvement. It must be stressed that it is not a duty of the Authority to tell a shop-keeper his responsibilities—it is part of his job to find out.

**Movable Dwellings.**

The 234 visits made to movable dwellings have been mainly due to two types of caravan dwellers which frequent this area. They are (1) a gipsy type who use a horse-drawn type van and (2) a nomadic trader type who has a super modern caravan drawn by a high powered car.

**Factories.**

Inspections have been made at existing factories and plans of new factories have been examined when submitted for approval under byelaws. Details of visits are as follows:—

(1) (a) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2
(b) Number of Inspections made ... ..	10
(2) (a) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	55
(b) Inspections made ... ..	165
(c) Notices Served ... ..	2

Cases in which defects were found:—

Sanitary Conveniences:—

Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	4
Remedied ... ..	4

Certificates issued that sufficient Means of Fire

Escape is provided ... ..	2
---------------------------	---

**Rodent Control.**

The Council provides a free service to private dwellings. Sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are treated at regular intervals.

### Summary of Premises treated

	Rats.	Mice.	Total.
Local Authority's property ...	6	1	7
Dwelling houses ... ..	67	11	78
Business Premises ... ..	3	3	6
			—
		Total ...	91
			—

### Mortuary.

A part-time attendant looks after the mortuary. It has been well maintained.

### CONCLUSION.

I wish to thank the Council for their support and interest in the working of the Department and to thank the Officers of other Departments for their willing co-operation in matters of mutual interest.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



